

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 BIB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-07 /092 W

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R 111744Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3893

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LE FR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF LEBANESE COMMUNIST DELEGATION TO
FRANCE

1. A DELEGATION OF THE LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY LED BY
SECRETARY GENERAL NICOLAS CHAOUI HAS BEEN IN FRANCE FOR
SEVERAL DAYS MAKING CONTACT WITH PRIMARILY LEFTIST
GROUPS AND PARTIES. AT AN AUGUST 10 PRESS CONFERENCE,
CHAOUI, SPEAKING IN THE NAME OF LEBANESE PROGRESSIVE
FORCES AND THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, SAID SYRIAN
FORCES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN BEFORE PEACE CAN BE RESTORED.

"WE REALIZE THERE CAN BE NO MILITARY SOLUTION", HE SAID,
BUT ASSERTED THAT LEBANESE PROGRESSIVE AND PALESTINIAN
FORCES HAVE ENOUGH WEAPONS TO CARRY OUT THE STRUGGLE
INDEFINITELY. HE ASKED FOR FRANCE'S SUPPORT TO END THE
"GENOCIDE" IN LEBANON, AND ATTACKED FRANCE, WEST

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GERMANY AND THE U.S. FOR ALLEGEDLY SUPPLYING ARMS TO

PHALANGIST AND OTHER RIGHTISTS. "WE DEPLORE PRESIDENT GISCARD'S POLICY WHICH HAS RALLIED TO WASHINGTON. SUCH A POLICY CAN ONLY RENDER A POLITICAL SOLUTION MORE DIFFICULT AND HURT FRANCE'S RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD".

2. DURING A "MEETING OF SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE PCF AND PROGRESSIVE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN FORCES" HELD AUGUST 10, PCF SECRETARY GENERAL GEORGES MARCHAIS AGAIN ACCUSED THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT OF SENDING 155 MM CANNON TO LEBANON, AND READ FROM A LETTER HE HAD SENT PM CHIRAC THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE LETTEH DECLARED THAT THE GOF COULD NOT REMAIN SILENT IN FACE OF THE "REAL GENOCIDE" IN LEBANON. FRANCE, IT SAID, SHOULD CLEARLY DECLARE SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES: OPPOSITION TO ANY EFFORT TO PARTITION LEBANON; REJECTION OF THE OCCUPATION BY FORCE OF FOREIGN TERRITORIES, WHICH IMPLIES THE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN TROOPS; SUPPORT FOR ANY PROPOSITIONS FAVORING THE SETTLEMENT DF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM ON THE BASIS OF THE EFFECTIVE RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

3. DURING A RADIO BROADCAST AUGUST 11, PM CHIRAC CALLED MARCHAIS' CHARGE ABOUT THE CANNONS "RIDICULOUS". CHIRAC SAID ALL THE INTERESTED PARTIES HAD PRAISED FRENCH EFFORTS "TO TRY TO BRING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE LEBANESE CONFLICT". HE NOTED THAT THE PCF WAS NOT IN THE BEST POSITION TO MAKE SUCH ACCUSATIONS AND "ABOVE ALL, TD SET ITSELF UP AS BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR FRENCH TRADITIONS".

4. WHILE SYMPATHETIC TO THE LEBANESE PLIGHT, SHORT STATEMENTS ISSUED AFTER CHAOUT'S MEETINGS WITH SOCIALIST AND LEFT RADICAL GROUPS DID NOT FULLY ENDORSE HIS POSITION.

5. COMMENT: THE PCF PDSITION REFLECTS FAIRLY CLOSELY THE LINE TAKEN BY MOSCOW. WHILE IT CLEARLY WILL NOT AFFECT THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS LEBANON, THE PCF'S LATEST STATEMENT, ADDED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESSURES FROM WITHIN THE UDR FOR FRANCE TO "DO SOMETHING" ABOUT LEBANON, MAY ENCOURAGE THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SOME FURTHER INITIATIVE. THIS MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF A REITERATION DF THE PROPOSAL TO USE PARIS AS SITE FOR A LEBANESE ROUNDTABLE.
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